First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti, MI

"Follow Me"

Tom Askaroff and his singing Patterdale Terrier, Rolly

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here.

September 6, 2015 10:00 am

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

An open and affirming community committed to peace and justice

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP & LIFE TOGETHER: We invite you to participate in this community of faith. If you are a visitor for the first time, please fill out the welcome pad being passed around. We invite you to join us for Friendship Time (refreshments and conversation) at the conclusion of worship.

WE WELCOME CHILDREN so that they may come to understand the worship experience. Families are encouraged to talk about the parts of worship so children may understand and participate. During the worship service we have a time for children with the minister on the rug in the center of the worship space followed by Sunday school (September-May).

Hymns are found in the following books:
NCH *(Black, hardcover "New Century Hymnal")*
Sing! *(Black, softcover, "Sing! Prayer and Praise" songbook)*
ES *(Green, softcover "Everflowing Streams" songbook)*

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Invitation

All people are welcome to participate in this community of faith
If you have questions about becoming a member of this church, please speak with the Pastor or any member of the Community.

Prelude Steve McGhee

***Gathering Hymn** **"Song of the Soul"** **81 ES** - Steve McGhee

Welcome Ivan Harner

Guests, please complete a Visitor Card and place in the offering plate so we may have a record of your visit.
We hope you will join us for Friendship Time and refreshments after the service.

Thank you for worshiping with us today!

Please rise in body or spirit as you are able

Announcements Ivan Harner

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Ringing the Bell

***Hymn** **"There are Some Things I May Not Know"** **405 NCH**

Call to Worship (Unison) Ivan Harner

One: Listen! God is welcoming us to this time of worship.
Young and old, rich and poor, gay and straight, all are welcomed.
Many: This is the place where all people belong.
This is a time when all are accountable to God.
One: Come to sing praises and put your trust in God.
Come to prepare yourself to serve in Christ's name.
Many: We bring all our needs to God, our hope.
We wish to share faith and hope with others.
Amen. – **Adapted From "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler**

LISTENING FOR GOD

Old Testament **Isaiah 1:16-18a** Ivan Harner

Hymn **"Jesus, Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child"** **136 NCH**

Children's Time *children are invited to come forward*

New Testament **Romans 12:15-18** Ivan Harner

***Hymn** **"I Heard My Mother Say"** **409 NCH**

New Testament **Luke 4:16-21** Ivan Harner

***Hymn** **"Take Off Your Shoes"** **79 ES**

Old Testament **Amos 5:24** Ivan Harner

***Hymn** **"Drops of Water"** **60 ES**

CONVERSING WITH THE HOLY ONE

Prayers of the People Tad Wysor

All are invited to offer a prayer, testimony, praise report or prayer request at this time.
Please limit your sharing to one or two sentences and remember confidentiality issues.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (Unison) -- Alternate Version

Tad Wysor

When we say the Lord's Prayer, please feel free to follow the traditional form or use language that feels comfortable to you, e.g. Mother, Creator, God, Friend, or Realm, Kindom, Wisdom.

Offering this prayer in unison brings us together and the words illustrate our common journey

"I Believe"

I believe in the equality of all, rich and poor.
I believe in liberty.
I believe in humanity, and that through it
we can create unity.
I believe in the love within each of us,
and in the home, happy and healthy.
I believe in the forgiveness of our sins.
I believe that with divine help we will have the strength
to establish equality in society.
I believe in unity,
the only way to achieve peace, and
I believe that together we can obtain justice.

- Prayer of an Ayacucho Youth Group, Peru from *Let Justice Roll Down*

RESPONDING TO OUR CALLING

Invitation to the Offering (Unison)

Wayne Burling

Hear again the proverb: "Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor." What a joy we can know when our thankfulness exceeds our need to acquire and our concern for others outweighs our greed. You are invited to share what you have received. Amen.

– Adapted from "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler

Offertory

Steve McGhee

*Doxology

"Take My Gifts" **562 NCH**

Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
Gave me light and food and shelter, Gave me life and set me free,
Now because your love has touched me, I have love to give away,
Now the bread of love is rising, Loaves of love to multiply!

Prayer of Dedication** ***(Unison) Alex Goldsmith

We give because you have been generous to us, gracious God, We give because we need to give in order to realize your image in us. May the ministries of this church meet the needs of our members, our community and our world. Amen.

– Adapted from "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler

DEPARTING WITH PRAISE

***Hymn of Departure** **"Lead Us from Death to Life"** **581 NCH**

***Benediction** Ivan Harner

One: We are sent out to do good and to be merciful
Our trust is in God, who equips us to serve.

Many: Both friends and strangers are our concern.
We want to provide practical help to those in need.
Commission us to share hope and love each and every day.
Amen. **– Adapted From "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler**

Postlude Steve McGhee

(Please be seated for the Postlude)

Passing the Peace *Share a greeting with your neighbor as we transition to our snack.*

First Congregational United Church of Christ
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Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198
734-482-6980
website: ***www.ypsiucc.com***

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God is still speaking,
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Our Volunteers	Today: Sept 6th	Next Sunday: Sept 13th
Usher	Marty Kleino	Jamie Goldsmith
Preaching	Hymn Sing	Carol Hall
Worship Leader	Ivan Harner	Tad Wysor
Worship Set-up	Margaret Harner	Donna Eyster
Acolyte	Lyle Molter	Hunter Turner
Friendship Time	Eric Leavell / Wayne Burling	Barb Garland

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING: Our next Council meeting will be held October 5th at 4:30 pm. All are welcome.

PASTORAL CARE EMERGENCIES: If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Glenda Horvath, 734-904-0420

CONGREGATIONAL CARE: Kindly remember in your prayers our members and friends who are sick and/or shut-in. Send a card or note to lift their spirits and yours as well.

Fran Pebbles' address: *American Homes Carpenter, 3470 Carpenter Rd., Apt 332, Ypsilanti, MI 48197. Phone: 734-975-0987*

Sally Dusbiber's *address'*: *Silver Maples of Chelsea, Room 1211, 100 Silver Maples Dr., Chelsea, MI 48118. Sally's direct phone line is 734-433-2396 and the Silver Maples line is 734-475-4111, x217.*

IMMIGRATION MINISTRY (WICIR): For information about what's happening with Immigrant Rights and ***Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights*****,** or if you are interested in learning ways to help, please contact Margaret Harner at 734-483-3464 or through their Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/WICIR .

MICHIGAN OPEN & AFFIRMING COALITION: For information about what's happening with **Michigan Open and Affirming Coalition,** or if you are interested in joining us, please contact Wayne Burling at 734-377-0696. More information can be found on their website http://www.mi-ona.org or on facebook at https://www.facebook.com/groups/onami/
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WASHTENAW REGIONAL ORGANIZING COALITION: "First Congregational is a co-founding institution of the new local "organization of organizations" **WeROC (Washtenaw Regional Organizing Coalition).** In many ways, WeROC is a larger illustration of the values and mission we try to live out at First Congregational. The diverse faith congregations and labor and community organizations that make up WeROC are, at our core, focused on intentionally reweaving the frayed fabric of community -- at a time when forces are at work every day to keep us fragmented, suspicious of each other, feeling isolated and on our own. We are showing by example that people from many backgrounds and perspectives can, even today, come together in powerful ways around our common values and *actually change* unjust public policies. WeROC is a part of the S.E. Michigan organization MOSES and the national Gamaliel Foundation.
See Tad Wysor (tadwysor@gmail.com, 734 883 3225) for more on how First Congregational is connecting with current WeROC issues and actions.

OUR WEBSITE: http://www.ypsiucc.org Let Wayne know if you have any additional items to be added. He could use lots more pictures. Also check out and like our Facebook page. https://www.facebook.com/pages/First-Congregational-United-Church-of-Christ-Ypsilanti/115695119913 .

KROGER FUNDRAISER: **HAVE YOU *RE-REGISTERED* WITH KROGER!!** Everybody that shops at Kroger and has a shopper's card ***MUST*** register. ***Last Year's registration expires May 1st*** and you are not getting credit for you purchases until you re-register for the current year.

Go to www.kroger.com and click "**REGISTER**". Follow prompts to register your frequent shopper card number. Then link to the **Community Rewards** site and register with our church. Our number is **83263**, or you can find our name in drop down list. Any questions contact Barbara Garland, bargarland@yahoo.com, 734-662-5803.

About this week's cover photo: http://www.solarnavigator.net/animal_kingdom/mammals/dogs.htm

Coming from a family of animal lovers, we had many pet dogs, among them, an Alsatian, an Airedale Terrier, and a Borzoi called Jasper. I used to take Jasper out with me when jogging - or rather, Jasper used to take me out! This was one animal I couldn't even come close to tiring - they have remarkable speed and stamina. However, our dog was a bit scatty. He was extremely friendly with people, but lethal with other animals - especially dogs and sheep. Because they are so powerful, they can be a bit of a handful when encountering other walkers - so be warned - train hard! - Nelson Kruschandl - animal lover